Lincoln Birthday Service

Memorial Hall, Chicago
Wednesday, February 12, 1920
Two-Thirty O'Clock P. M.

To Hon Daniel Fish
Apr 28. 20
from Merritt Starr

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THE GRAND ARMY HALL

and

MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

TWENTY-FIRST LINCOLN BIRTHDAY SERVICE

Memorial Hall, Chicago

Wednesday, February 12th, 1920

2:30 O'Clock P. M

Address by

MERRITT STARR, M. A., LL. B.

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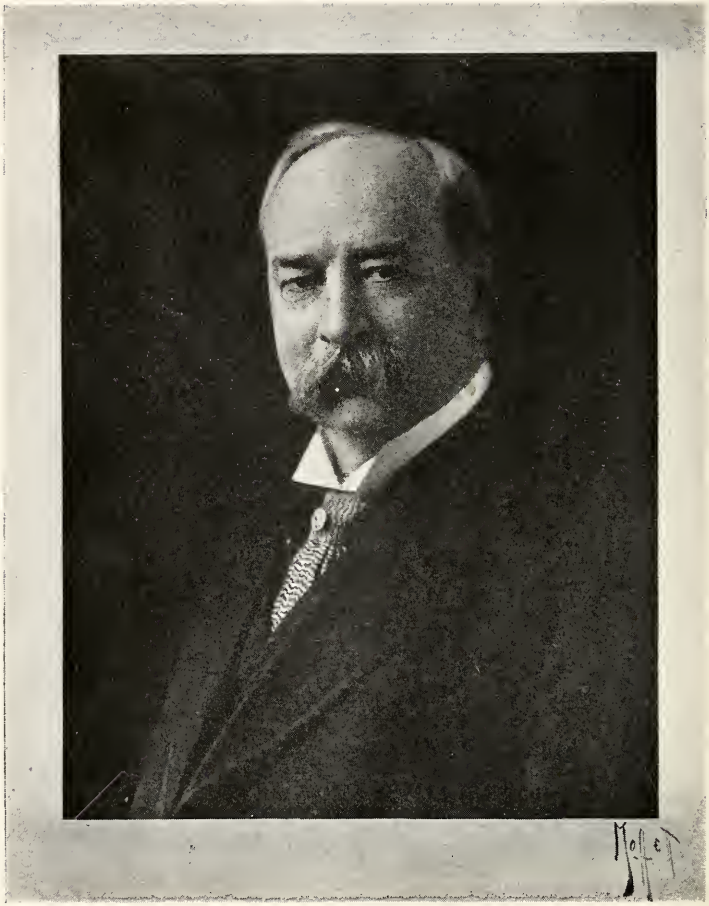
ST. GAUDEN'S STATUE OF LINCOLN
LINCOLN PARK, CHICAGO



MERRITT STARR

Twenty-First Lincoln Birthday Service

Memorial Hall, Chicago, February 12, 1920, Two-Thirty O'Clock P. M.

PRESIDENT PITCHER: Will the audience please arise while the Rev. Ernest B. Allen pronounces the Invocation.

Invocation by the Rev. Ernest Bourner Allen, D. D.

Almighty and ever gracious God, our Father! We gather in this Memorial place, sacred to those who have served in the days gone by, upon this birthday of the great Emancipator, that we may remind ourselves again of the debt which we owe, and of the unfinished work which we are still to carry on. We render infinite thanks to Thee, who art our Father, for the gift, the very good and perfect gift that has just come to us in the heritage of the past. We thank Thee for the men and women who sacrificed and served that they might preserve our Union and make democracy safe for the black man, and who laid down those great principles upon which our Government has been developing in the years after.

Today, our Father, we thank Thee for the gift of great men like Lincoln, beacon lights of history and inspirers and leaders of the multitude. We thank Thee for this man who came out from the common people, for his love of his mother, for his struggle against poverty, for his conquest of himself, for his far-seeing vision, and for his rugged honesty, for his fidelity to Thee, for his belief in and practice of prayer, for his spirit of appreciation for all those who toiled with him.

Help us to realize the dignity and preciousness of our heritage in his memory. Help us also, our Father,

to take up the unfinished work, which he and those of that generation so nobly began.

In these concrete and tragic days of the world's need, when there is a call for leaders who can see clearly, wilt Thou help us fill our minds with something of the same devotion and fidelity to our work in our generation as the men did in those other days.

Bless Thy servant who brings to us the message of the Lord, and grant that we may gather out of these associations and the day and the message, inspiration for our work tomorrow. And we pray, our Father, that we may in our home land here, be able to make peace for the men of all races and lands, and assure to them the freedom and the opportunity, the prophecy of which came in '76, the possibility of which was made certain in '61, the extension of which came in '98 and 1917.

Our Father, we pray that Thou wilt help us to be faithful to our God and to our fellows. Let Thy benediction rest upon the men under whose auspices we are met today. Grant to them the courage, the vigor and peace in these later days. May they be assured that the things for which they stood are appreciated and will preserve to the end of time. We ask it in our Lord's name and for His sake. Amen.

President Pitcher: The next on our program is a solo and chorus by the Junior Companions of the Loyal Legion.

Mr. Black: You are all requested to join us in both the solo and the chorus. Let us make it a big solo.

("Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!")

President Pitcher: The next on the program is the reading of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, by Col. George V. Lauman.

(Gettysburg Address read by Col. Lauman.)

PRESIDENT PITCHER: The next number on our program is a solo and chorus.

("The Suwanee River.")

PRESIDENT PITCHER: Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Loyal Legion, the Spanish and Philippine Wars and the American Legion: We are met here today in commemoration of the one hundred and eleventh birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

It is difficult to realize that a generation has been born into the world and has passed away, and that a second generation is nearing maturity since the death of Abraham Lincoln.

The birthday of Lincoln was not especially observed by the great civic bodies or by our people generally, until recent years.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Grand Army and Memorial Hall Association of Illinois, in October, 1899, Director, General, Walter R. Robbins, submitted the following preamble and resolution which were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln—the martyred President of the United States—occurs on the 12th of February, and inasmuch as no society or organization in the State of Illinois commemorates the natal day of this great man—the apostle of justice and human rights, it is most fitting that the Grand Army Hall and Memorial Association of Illinois, composed as it is of men who were the servants of the United States as soldiers and sailors during the War of the Rebellion, should in some appropriate manner manifest their reverence for his memory:

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that commencing on the 12th day of February, in the year 1900,

and on each succeeding 12th day of February—a day so hallowed in the hearts of men of all nations—the Association shall assemble in its sacred Hall for this purpose, and that we invite a suitable person on each occasion to make an address on the life and character of Abraham Lincoln."

Since that time more than twenty eminent statesmen, scholars and gifted orators have addressed this Association and I now have the privilege and honor to introduce an honored citizen of Chicago, Honorable MERRITT STARR, M. A., LL. B., who will address you.

Sometimes in listening to music, one is privileged to perceive by the ears of the inward sense all those silent, intermediate intervals which lead finally from the penetrating overtone of the singer downward into the full dominant or upward into a triumphant diapason. Christ's clear overtone, Martyrdom, once led to the dominant of Salvation, the diapason Heavens that of Lincoln into Liberty! Shall we ever complete the unfinished upward notes of Lincoln's Overtone, and strike the climax of Patriotism; Humanitarianism? For our comfort let us remember that a great discord is often by a single note resolved into wonderful harmony.

—Lilian Rea.

(The above was written especially for this occasion.)

"LINCOLN'S LINEAGE, and its Influence on His LIFE AND CHARACTER."

MR. STARR: Mr. Chairman and dear Friends: I used to go to Methodist meetings, and a remark that I

came to know by heart, used to be uttered by the class leader; "Brethren, it is good for us to be here." (Laughter.)

And when I see that it is snowing outside, and reflect that it has been snowing fitfully but continuously for the last thirty hours, I confess to a certain feeling of surprise, not less than pleasure, that so large and distinguished a company should be met here and fill this hall this afternoon.

While we were listening to the immortal Gettysburg address, I couldn't help thinking, and it seems to me proper at this time, to mention that eleven years ago, come the 9th of July, I happened to be one of a party of about fifty people, Americans, in the city of Athens, the capital of ancient and of modern Greece. We were under the leadership of a distinguished professor of that great language and literature, and on the afternoon of the 9th of July, he led us out to the Dipylon Gate in the old wall of the city, where twenty-three hundred and thirty-nine years before (B. C. 430) Pericles had delivered his immortal oration over the dead of the Peloponnesian war; and after reading the address the professor called especial attention to that great expression by Pericles, "that the people of Athens among all the people in the world, were they who, when put to the supreme test, surpassed expectation;" and then this professor looked around and said, "Now, can you match that? Is there anything in all literature that will touch that? Isn't that the high water mark?" And he paused for a reply; and your humble servant could not help saying to that: "What about Lincoln's Gettysburg address?" (Applause.) And the professor said, "Uh, u-h, u-h,—I forgot that. Do you remember it?" "Yes, I remember it." And I stood up at the Dipylon Gate and delivered the Gettysburg Address. (Applause.)

Among the many subjects concerning Abraham Lincoln, I have decided to talk about "Lincoln's Lineage." Lincoln has been the inspiration of many legends. The day would fail us in the attempt to recite them.

Lincoln's life lends itself to the growth of legends. His first twenty years and more were passed upon the frontier, where witnesses were few, and mainly untrained in historic judgment, and ready believers in the marvelous. Heroes themselves, they readily accepted heroes and wove legends about them. To illustrate: In 1865 there were still back woodsmen in central Illinois; and among them the legend arose, that the brown thrush did not sing in the woods for a year after Lincoln died. (10 Nicolay & Hay, p. 346.)

Some such legends are beautiful, some are *naive*, childlike; all involve a touch of the marvelous. We may therefore be cautious in regard to all such legends.

A legend very generally accepted is that Lincoln was a sport of nature, a rare, strange exotic, a man of rarest quality, who marvelously came from the meanest antecedents, from the most unfavorable surroundings;—that like the magnolia that springs from noisome swamps and converts the slime and decay of the soil from which it springs, into flowers of rare beauty, so from the morass of humanity from which he sprang, Lincoln wrought the marvel of statesmanship which his life proved to be.

Now, that conception has elements of beauty; it is attractive; it appeals to our love of the marvelous; many who love the name of Lincoln, find a special satisfaction in this beautiful legend.

But beautiful as the legend is, it is not true. Sometimes the legend is given a form that is not so beautiful.

In 1860, when he became the presidential candidate of a new political party on the platform of no extension of slavery, there were immediately arrayed against him the forces of the slave-holding aristocracy, which occupied the regions of his ancestry and birth. There were legend-makers among them also; and, regarding as their arch enemy this then little known man of the people, this leader of the hosts of freedom, their legend-making took the direction of detraction. They began with the absurd fictions that he favored miscegenation, and that he didn't know his own parentage, which were readily accepted by the slave-holding aristocracy; and soon there grew up the legend that Lincoln was an accidental, unaccountable, by-product of an irregular union of some noble Virginia strain with the poor white element of the South. These were "fabrications born of the bitter spirit of the times." (Francis F. Browne, "Every-Day Life of Lincoln," p. 5.)

By a perversion of sentiment this error obtained acceptance among some misguided legend-making friends, who fondly thought that the more they depressed his origin the greater became the achievement of his ascent. Yet others felt the speculative need of a noble ancestry for this noble man, and, not knowing the facts, which we have since ascertained, adopted the theory of some cloud concerning his mother, and gave it currency. Notable among these legend-making friends was his law partner, William H. Herndon. Researches which were not completed until after Herndon's death have cleared away the clouds his myth-making tendency spun about the lineage of Lincoln's mother.

An evil form of the legend is found in a book written by a professor of history. His statement runs as follows:

"Abraham Lincoln came of the most unpromising stock on the continent, 'the poor white trash' of the South. His shiftless father moved from place to place in the Western country, failing where everybody else was succeeding in making a living; and the boy had spent the most susceptible years of his life under no discipline but that of degrading poverty." ("Division and Reunion," by Woodrow Wilson, copyrighted, 1892; republished 1902; p. 216.)

The professor was misinformed. Five years before the professor gave out his misinformation, in 1887 a Chicago citizen, Samuel Shackford, had published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Vol. 41, p. 153), the facts here given as to Lincoln's lineage on the father's side; and Nicolay and Hay had forever dispelled the clouds as to his birth, which were raised during the campaign of 1860.

But truth is better than error, and it will be well for all who love Lincoln, who love America and who love truth to displace this legend and put the truth in its place.

The truth is that Lincoln came from the finest and best blood of America; that after five American generations of well-born, competent and successful ancestors, there came into the family a sudden tragedy, which left Lincoln's father an orphan when six years old; that at that time the antiquated, cavalier, feudal law, which had come down from aristocratic England to Virginia,—the law of a primogeniture, prevailed; and Lincoln's father was a younger son. The eldest son, the brother of Lincoln's father, inherited a competency; and Lincoln's father was left an orphan without means. This caused a great and sudden drop in the fortunes of this branch of the family. The rise of Abraham Lincoln into a successful professional

career, and into public leadership, was not the case of the rare, miraculous flower from the slime of the morass, but one more demonstration of the truth that blood will tell; that heredity gives the man his quality, and environment his opportunity; and both in heredity and in environment, the life of Lincoln gives indications that his greatness was the result of exceptional endowment and inheritance, and of what, in the long run, proved to be—favorable opportunity.

His lineage runs thus:

1. *Samuel Lincoln* came from Hingham, England to Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1637, with a brother, Thomas Lincoln.

Samuel's descendants furnished two Governors to Massachusetts, both named Levi Lincoln, and one Governor,—Enoch Lincoln,—to Maine.

The Encyclopedia Britannica attests his gentility thus: "Samuel Lincoln (born 1619—died 1690), the President's first American ancestor, son of Edward Lincoln, *gentleman,* of Hingham, Norfolk County, emigrated to Massachusetts in 1637." (11Ed., Vol. 16, p. 703.) What does it mean when we see in an English book of pedigree the adjective qualifying the character and degree of the man, "gentle," or the descriptive "gentleman"? It means the younger son of a noble.

Murray's Oxford Dictionary defines gentleman first, (with, of course, many qualifications), as: "A man of gentle birth or having the same heraldic status as those of gentle birth," and quotes the following examples, which are of dates approximately contemporary with our Samuel Lincoln:

"1596 *Spenser, State Irel.* wks. (Globe) 672: 'If he can derive himselfe from the head of a septe. . . . then he holdeth himselfe a gentleman.'

1614 *Selden, Titles Hon.* Pref. Biv, 'Hee that is so

Εὐγενής
both Εὐγενής and Γενναῖος, both descended from truly Noble Parentage and withal following their steps, or adding to their name, is the Gentleman that may lawfully glorie in his Title'."

These contemporary illustrations tell us what those writers of pedigree meant when they styled Samuel Lincoln of 1619, *"gentleman."*

This Samuel Lincoln left ten children.

2. His *fourth* son, Mordecai Lincoln, born at Hingham, June 17, 1667, was an iron worker. By his will, still of record, he devises to his children among other things, an iron-furnace, a saw-mill, and a grist-mill, and provided funds for sending three grandsons to college. He had seven children, among whom we note Mordecai 2d, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

(The Massachusetts and Maine Lincolns included a member of the Boston Tea Party, General Benjamin Lincoln of the Continental Army, and also included a captain of artillery in the revolution, also Levi Lincoln, Harvard graduate of 1772, minute man at Cambridge, member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, and successively of both houses of the Massachusetts Legislature, Attorney General and Secretary of State under Jefferson, and he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States by Madison—an office which he declined. (1 Tarbell, Life of Lincoln, pp. 1, 2). His son, Levi, also a Harvard graduate, also became Governor of Massachusetts (Id.).) (1 Nat. Cyc. Am. Biography, p. 111, 114.)

3. Mordecai Lincoln 2d, born 1686, migrated to Monmouth, New Jersey; married Anna Bowne Salter, whose father, Richard Salter, was Assembly-man and judge of the Province of New Jersey. This Richard Salter, by deeds made in 1720 and 1725, still of record, conveyed to his son-in-law, Mordecai Lincoln, 600 acres

of land on Machaponix River, New Jersey, and describes him as being of Chester County, Pennsylvania. A deed, made in 1725 by Mordecai Lincoln of Chester County, Pennsylvania, still of record and able to be found and abstracted in an abstract of record, if you are buying that piece of land, conveys land— and note the description—"with mines, minerals, forges, buildings and improvements,—" showing that he still followed his father's calling, of an iron-worker, learned in Massachusetts.

This was down in the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, within a few miles of the Maryland line.

He was a Quaker by conviction, and in time fixed his residence in Exeter, Berks County, Pennsylvania, adjoining Chester, where he bought a thousand acres of land from the sons of William Penn. We have the deeds for this. There is no legend about this; we are coming back to the facts. He attended the Quaker meeting house known as the "Oley" meeting; and he was buried in the graveyard of the Oley meeting. (Philadelphia *Times,* January 20, 1898.) When the appraisers came to settle up his estate and made their report in 1735 to the Orphans Court of Philadelphia, they entitled the estate "the estate of Mordecai Lincoln, *Gentleman,*" still adhering to the English custom. (1 Nicolay and Hay, Life, p. 3.)

The last and posthumous son of Mordecai 2d, viz., Abraham, born at Amity, Pennsylvania, in 1736, married a cousin of Daniel Boone, the Kentucky pioneer. David J. Lincoln of Berks County, Pennsylvania, wrote to Nicolay and Hay, saying: "My grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, was married to *Anna* Boone, a first cousin of Daniel Boone, July 10, 1760." (1 Nicolay and Hay, Life, p. 4); and this is confirmed in substance by an old Virginia book called "Waddell's Annals of Augusta

County" (Va.), in which we find it recorded that Abraham Lincoln at this time married *Hannah* Elizabeth Winter(s), a cousin of Daniel Boone. This Abraham appears to have been the great uncle of the President's father, Thomas.

His descendants still living in Pennsylvania, over a century later, mentioned that Daniel Boone made visits to his Pennsylvania kin and gave glowing accounts of Kentucky. This Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln was, like his family, a well-to-do man of affairs, was a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, of the State Legislature of 1787, and of the State Constitutional Convention in 1790. (1 Tarbell, pp. 2, 3.)

Mordecai Lincoln 2d, by his will still of record in the register's office in Philadelphia (Tarbell & Davis, Early Life of Lincoln, p. 235), devises several hundred acres of land, designating part in Pennsylvania and part in Machaponix, *New Jersey,* which he devised to his son, John Lincoln. (Abraham, brother of Mordecai 2d, went with his brother to Pennsylvania and there remained.)

Mordecai 2d left eight children, among whom we may note his fourth child, *John.*

4. This John was the fourth son of Mordecai 2d, and he identifies himself in a deed we find of record in New Jersey, conveying these same Machaponix lands, and describing himself as "the son and heir of Mordecai Lincoln." He migrated to Virginia in 1758, into Rockingham County, and became known as Virginia John Lincoln.

Virginia John Lincoln left five sons. Now we take number 5 of our entries.

5. The third son of Virginia John Lincoln was named *Abraham,* whom I shall call "grandfather Abraham" because he was the grandfather of the President.

To him Virginia John conveyed, in 1773, a tract of 210 acres of land.

Grandfather "Abraham" Lincoln, the son of Virginia John, married Miss Mary Shipley of North Carolina, whither some of the Boones and Shipleys had migrated. As Mrs. Hitchcock says: "The great majority of all the migration into Kentucky at this time, even from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England, came by the Virginia Valley, thence" (into North Carolina) "to Cumberland Gap, and thence by what was known as the Wilderness Road, running northwest from the Gap to the Ohio at Louisville." (Life of Nancy Hanks, pp. 31, 32; see "The Wilderness Road," by Thomas Speed, Louisville.) Hon. J. L. Nall of Missouri, grandson of Nancy (Lincoln) Brumfield, (grandfather Abraham Lincoln's youngest child), made so clear and positive a statement of this that it is accepted as correct by Nicolay and Hay, (Id. p. 5). The persistence of the scriptural names, Abraham, Mordecai, Samuel, etc., thro' several generations and collateral branches of the family, strengthens the proof that they were all members of the same family and shared the same inheritance of English blood. (1 Nicolay and Hay, p. 5; Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, in Life of Nancy Hanks, p. 24; Doubleday & McClure Co., 1899.)

Their children, Mordecai 3d, Josiah and Thomas, were born in Virginia, the last and youngest son, Thomas, being born in 1778—before their westward journey. (See date on his tombstone, Farmington, Coles County, Ill.: "Born, Jan. 6, 1778; died Jan. 15, 1851.") In 1780 the grandfather Abraham removed to Kentucky, and settled in the Hughes Settlement. There his two daughters, Mary and Nancy, were born. In 1784 grandfather Abraham was shot down in the

field by the Indians, and as Nicolay and Hay have detailed:

"One morning in the year 1784 he started with his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas, to the edge of the clearing and began the day's work. A shot from the brush killed the father; Mordecai, the eldest son, ran instinctively to the house, Josiah to the neighboring fort, for assistance; and Thomas, the youngest, a child of six, was left with the corpse of his father. Mordecai, reaching the cabin, seized the rifle, and saw through the loophole an Indian in his war paint, stooping to raise the child from the ground. He took deliberate aim at a white ornament on the breast of the savage and brought him down." (1 Nicolay and Hay, Life, p. 21.)

Records still extant show that grandfather Abraham sold his lands in Virginia, now increased to 240 acres, for five thousand pounds of Virginia currency;—that he entered 400 acres in Jefferson County, Kentucky,—800 acres on Green River, and 500 acres in Campbell County; and it is understood that in the years that remained to him in Kentucky, he acquired still more land.

The inventory of the personal estate included 2 horses, 8 head of cattle, 1 plow, 3 guns, a set of carpenter's tools, 3 beds with furniture, and other goods, in all appraised at 68 pounds, 16 shillings and 6 pence, or $333. If the practice prevailed then, as in some places now, and afterwards legislated and enacted, in the rule of appraisement in Illinois, of using one-third of the full value as representing the immediate cash or forced sale value, this means that the personal estate of the grandfather of President Lincoln was worth a thousand dollars to an owner not needing to sell; and accepting the estimate that the scanty American money

of the frontier was only one-tenth as much per capita as it is now, a dollar then was equivalent to ten dollars now. This means that his personal property in terms of today, amounted to $10,000—besides his fortune in land.

And now we come to the vital point in the whole matter.

Kentucky was then part of Virginia. Virginia had brought with her this law of primogeniture by which the oldest son inherited all the land.

6. Mordecai 3d, the oldest son of grandfather Abraham, received the estate. The youngest son, Thomas, left an orphan when between six and seven years old, received no property from the estate. Anybody that wants to see a clear legal statement of that rule of law in Virginia, may find it in 4 Kent's Commentaries at page 375.

Grandfather Abraham left a widow who received one-third of the personalty and a life estate in one-third of the realty. He left five children. The oldest son took all the realty. Each child should receive one-fifth of two-thirds of the personalty. (Virginia Statute of 1705), (Acts of Virginia, published 1733, Williamsburg, p. 184). Thomas's share of the goods amounted to nine pounds value, which should have been preserved by his guardian and used for his education, but no record of such guardianship has been published, and he received no such provision. In the rude conditions of the frontier even this was lost to him.

The Virginia Act abolishing primogeniture and providing for equal inheritance by children, was drafted by Thomas Jefferson and George Wythe in 1779, and reported to the Legislature, but not acted on until October 1785, the year after the death of Thomas Lincoln's father, when it was enacted into law, to take

effect on the 1st of January, 1787. (12 Hening's Virginia Statutes at Large, pp. 138-140.)

Kentucky was at that time part of Virginia. It didn't become admitted to the Union until June 1, 1792. (1 U. S. Statutes at Large, p. 189). One authority says that the killing of Lincoln's grandfather occurred in 1788. (1 Tarbell, p. 4.) Even if that were the date, this new law passed at the far-away capital of Virginia had not become so known and effective west of the mountains in the far-away wilderness of Kentucky as to save his inheritance to Thomas. So Mordecai 3d became a well-to-do citizen. Records of lands bought and sold by him are still preserved in Washington County, Kentucky. He became Sheriff of the County. Late in life, in 1828, he removed to La Harpe, Hancock County, Illinois, where he was known as a well to do citizen, and where some of his descendants still reside. President Lincoln used to see his Uncle Mordecai over in Hancock County, and he once said of him that "old Uncle Mord had run off with all the talent of the family." He certainly inherited all the property. (1 Nicolay and Hay, p. 21; Browne's Every Day Life of Lincoln, p. 4.)

Thomas Lincoln, the orphan, learned the trade of carpenter, cabinet-maker and wheelwright, was said to own the best set of tools in Washington County, and at the age of twenty-five, bought a farm in Hardin County, Kentucky. (1 Tarbell, pp. 6, 7.)

He is known to have been a strong anti-slavery man, and to have been temperate, honest, religious and a stout defender of his views, a man of good reputation and native wit. He had credit with the merchants of Elizabethtown. Books are still preserved, showing the long line of charges for household goods purchased from time to time, and the credits when he paid the money.

(Helen Nicolay, Personal Tracts, p. 66; 1 Tarbell, p. 13.)

In 1816 he was appointed road surveyor in Elizabethtown; and the men working the road were put under his control.

He was married, on June 12th, 1806, to Nancy Hanks. We have the marriage bond signed by Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, guardian of Nancy Hanks, and by John H. Parrott as witness, on June 10th. We have the recorded certificate of the marriage solemnized on June 12th, and the marriage lines signed by the officiating clergyman and issued to the wife. This was June 12th, 1806. This was in Washington County, near Springfield, Kentucky. (See certificate by Dr. C. C. Graham, in Life of Nancy Hanks, p. 65.)

7. Two years and eight months later President Abraham Lincoln was born.

Of how many marriages solemnized a century ago upon the frontier, can three such documents be found today? And right there let us mention this. Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, where Thomas, his father, had bought a farm, and where he had moved when he was twenty-five years old. Lincoln told his friends, the newspaper men who came to get points on his life in the campaign of 1860, that he was born in Hardin County, and that led to the inference that there was the place to look to find the records, if any, of his parents' marriage; and they looked in the records of Hardin County and they didn't find such a record; and myth-making did the rest. They did not look in the records of Washington County, where the marriage occurred. (Scripps, Life of Lincoln, N. Y. Tribune Tracts, No. 6, p. 1; Newton's Lincoln and Herndon, p. 320.)

But this tragic interruption in the progress of a leading American family happened just in time to throw its cloud over Thomas Lincoln and his offspring.

In the current Atlantic, the Dayton engineer, Arthur E. Morgan, publishes "New Light on Lincoln's Boyhood." He tells of meeting some of the grandchildren of the Hanks family in the Ozark country of Arkansas, others in the Missouri Ozark country, and yet others in Douglas County, Oregon. They were substantially without books. Their information is substantially independent of what has heretofore appeared in print, and as to the President and his father Thomas, is the report of what their parents told them. Such unlettered frontier people's statements of what their parents told them on the specific subjects of the acts and character of Thomas and the boy Abraham, whom the parents personally knew, are valuable. When the statements go beyond such specific knowledge specifically repeated, and deal with subjects less directly known, they become liable to error and subject to the cautions in acceptance which attach to rumor. Mr. Morgan's conclusions from the several sources are to this effect:

"The fact seems to be that Thomas Lincoln in his home life arrived at about the same stage of development as his neighbors. If the boy Abraham had grown up in any neighboring home, his habits of life and physical surroundings would have been about the same."

"He was like the other people in that country."

"Uncle Tom" was not poor as compared with his neighbors, but along with them he lived under primitive conditions."

After losing a boat load of produce, which he had purchased and was taking to market, and having to walk home, "he went to work at his trade and paid up all his debts" (a labor which required several years).

"The family traditions are colored throughout with a high regard for Thomas Lincoln's character, for his patience, kindness of heart and honesty and his finer sensibilities." (125 Atlantic, 208-218.)

Different as they are in other respects, it may help our understanding of the matter to recall that George Washington was born in Virginia only forty-six years before Thomas Lincoln. George Washington also was a younger son, and he, knowing that he would inherit no property, learned the surveyor's profession, acquired the means of self support, became a surveyor, a pioneer and land looker. His father, Augustine, by will, left George some land on the Rappahannock, but the greater portion to his oldest son, Lawrence.

Lawrence was George's elder brother and the father's oldest son, and he inherited the estate. He left one daughter and he left a will appointing George Washington her guardian, and in the event of her death without issue, devising the estate to George. The little girl died within a few months after her father, and so George Washington, not by inheritance, but by the devise, by the will of his brother, inherited that estate. (1 Irving's Life of Washington, p. 17; 1 Lodge, Life of Washington, p. 64.)

But the reproach of unpromising ancestry would be as inappropriate in the one case as the other.

And here we may note that Washington and Lincoln inherited noble names.

Is there indeed nothing in a name?

Try it once: "Aminadab Sheepface,—first in war, first in peace,—first in the hearts of his countrymen!" Aminadab Sheepface, indeed! I beg pardon of all who bear the name "Sheepface";—but imagination will not on with the picture. There is something in a noble name. Washington was a name to conjure with. And so of

Lincoln. From the days of the "Lincoln green," worn by Robin Hood's men,—from Lincolnshire, and Lincoln's Inn Fields in the heart of London, Lincoln has been a name to conjure with, and for a thousand years has carried with it implications of gentility and suggestions of greatness. (Applause.)

Lincoln is one of the oldest cities in England. It was the British town *Lindun* before the Roman invasion. Its name combines the British *Lindun* and Roman *Colonia.* "Lind-colonia"—Lincoln. There was a bishop of Lincoln as long ago as 300 A. D. King Alfred established his mint at Lincoln in the nine hundreds; and "Mint street" in the heart of the city still recalls the fact. William the Conquerer, built his castle there in the year 1068. Parliament sat there in the 1300's; and around 1200 to 1240,—400 years before Samuel Lincoln migrated to New England,—Robin Hood and his merry men dwelt in Sherwood Forest, 25 miles west of Lincoln.

Lincolnshire was and is the second largest county in England, on its Eastern coast, dividing with Norfolk County the coast of the great bay called "The Wash." Boston, English Boston, and Epworth, whence came Wesley, Epworth and Scrooby, whence came the elder Brewster, and whence came the Pilgrims and the Puritans, are all in Lincolnshire. Hingham, whence Samuel Lincoln came to found Hingham, Massachusetts, is about thirty miles from Donington, South Lincolnshire. Donington whence the great grandfather of Nancy Hanks came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, is in Lincolnshire.

The family name is not without significance.

Let us now take up the story of Lincoln's mother.

Well preserved records trace her lineage still further back.

1. Thomas Hanks, of Malmesbury, England, (25 miles northeast of Bristol), removed in 1550 to Stow-on-the-Wold (25 miles northwest of Oxford). He married and had three children, one of whom,

2. Was Thomas Hanks 2d, who had four children, including

3. Thomas Hanks 3d, who had four children, including

4. Joseph, who removed to Donington in Lincolnshire and had five children, of whom

5. Benjamin Hanks came to America, to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1699. Of his thirteen children the third,

6. William Hanks, born at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1704, removed to Virginia, and settled near the mouth of the Rappahannock, where five sons were born, including

7. The seventh generation, Joseph Hanks, the youngest son, who removed to Amelia County, Virginia, about 1740. On July 12th, 1754, Joseph Hanks bought his Virginia farm of 246 acres by direct grant from King George II. There he married Nancy Shipley, whose father, Robert Shipley, similarly acquired 314 acres of land on September 16, 1765; by direct grant from King George III, almost ten years before PATRICK HENRY delivered his Williamsburg speech.

Whether this Virginia Shipley family, which furnished wives to members of the families of Lincoln and of Hanks, came from the vicinity of Shipley, England, a suburb of Leeds, or were connected with the merchant prince of Brown, Shipley & Company of London, or with the Thomas Shipley, who, as the poet Whittier tells us, was from 1800 to 1830 the champion of the free colored people of Philadelphia (33 Atlantic Monthly, p. 16), remains to be ascertained.

The name "Hanks" has derived peculiar associations from the use of the word "hank," as the name for a skein of yarn, and, again, as a proper name, as a corruption of "Hal," and nickname for "Henry." The name has been perpetuated scientifically in the name of Hanksite, a crystalline mineral of sodium, discovered by Prof. Henry G. Hanks, State Mineralogist of California in the eighties. (Hitchcock, Life of Nancy Hanks, p. 18.)

The family of Benjamin Hanks, of Massachusetts, cast the first bells ever made in America, erected the first silk mills in America, shared in founding the American Bank Note Company, and contributed many of the useful inventions which have distinguished American industry. (Id.)

Joseph Hanks, father of the President's mother, died in 1793, when Nancy was nine years old; and Nancy went to live with her aunt, Mrs. Richard Berry. Richard Berry had come from Virginia to Kentucky at the same time with her father, and had married her mother's sister, Lucy Shipley, who thus became in lawful matrimony Mrs. Lucy Hanks, and aunt of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. It is a notable coincidence that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks each was left an orphan there on the Kentucky frontier before reaching the age of ten. But she was given a home, a frontier education and motherly care by her aunt; she became skilled beyond her neighbors in spinning and weaving; and when she married, the aunt's husband, Berry, signed the marriage bond, required by early law.

The statute of Kentucky enacted February 3, 1798, entitled "An Act for regulating the Solemnization of Marriages," by Section 8 specifically required this bond as the condition of the issuing of a marriage license "with condition that there is no lawful cause to obstruct

the marriage for which the license shall be desired." That Act had been in force for eight years before the marriage of Lincoln's parents and the condition of their bond was in the words of the statute. (See 2 Littell's Laws of Kentucky, pp. 64-67.) It applied to all marriages; compliance therewith was the normal and prevalent practice; and, as in the case of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln, was proof of the regularity of the marriage. In their case the original marriage bond (and return made by the officiating minister, Rev. Jesse Head) is still preserved in the records of Washington County, Kentucky. It bears the signatures of Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, Guardian, witnessed by John H. Parratt. (Hitchcock, p. 61.)

Thomas Lincoln's mother was Mary Shipley.

Nancy Hanks's mother was Nancy Shipley, sister of Mary. Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were first cousins, that is, had the same relation to each other as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. (Queen Victoria's mother and Prince Albert's father were brother and sister.) Moreover, the grandparents of the queen and prince were related. (1 Encyc. Brit. 11 Ed. p. 495.) This fact, which is taken for granted as proper in the case of the crowned heads, was sufficiently peculiar to be the source of gossip in the case of the Lincolns. There is an inherent similarity in the cases in this. In the case of the crowned heads the field of choice was restricted. The number of eligible persons was small. So also in that frontier settlement in Kentucy in 1806, where there were only a few hundred white people all told, the number of eligible persons was small. (The Kentucky statute on marriages enumerated certain forbidden degrees of consanguinity, but did not forbid the marriage of first cousins. 2 Littell's Laws of Ken-

tucky, Sec. 9, p. 68. Nor does the Levitical law. Lev. Ch. XVIII.)

This Joseph Hanks left a will dated January 9th, 1793, and probated May 14th, 1793, beginning, "In the name of God, Amen. I, Joseph Hanks, of Nelson County, State of Kentucky"—. In this will he gives a head of livestock to each of his eight children. To Nancy the gift, which is similar to, and of the same generosity as that shown to her brothers and sisters, reads as follows: "I give and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy one heifer yearling called Peidy." (Laughter.) Now there is no higher proof of paternity than the acknowledgment and declaration of the paternity by the will of the father. We smile at the simple bequest of "one heifer yearling called Peidy." It is humble in its pecuniary value; but to her it ensures in the technical sense the good name that is rather to be chosen than great riches. To all future ages it is the father's acknowledgment. To her it is a priceless legacy and benediction.

The slanders that were the bitter fabrications of the campaign of 1860, aimed now at Abraham, now at Abraham's father, and now at Abraham's mother, have been wiped away by the simple process of open-minded research. (Applause.)

For the facts as to his mother I refer to the work of Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, her kinswoman, in giving us the "Life of Nancy Hanks."

The poverty of the frontier was not "degrading." Life was coarse, but it was clean. It had little in common with the conditions of the city slums. The boy who grew up under the discipline of the frontier, learned frugality indeed; but he also learned freedom and the abundance of nature. Whatever there is in the nature-

gospel, the boy of the frontier had opportunity for.—and in this case, absorbed.

The boy of the Mississippi Valley frontier received the inspiration afforded by the virgin continent and the free institutions of America. The conquest of nature, the subjugation of the soil, the establishment of self government among the sparsely scattered newcomers, and the realization that their institutions, their constitution, their laws, their schools and churches, their offices and officers, their improvements and relations would be such as they chose to make them, gave that generation an inspiration beyond what was felt by those of former or even of later times.

Lincoln's forebears,—

Samuel, of England and Massachusetts,
Mordecai, of Massachusetts,
Mordecai, of Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania,
John, of Pennsylvania and Virginia,
Grandfather Abraham, of Virginia and Kentucky,
Thomas of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois,—all were pioneers.

And the same is true of the seven generations of ancestors of Nancy Hanks. Even those four Englishmen were pioneers in the sense of adventurers, taking the open road to new homes.

All of them had the land hunger and *wander-lust* which pervaded the best of Puritan England, and the best of the Americans.

They felt the lure of the land as strongly as ever Spaniard felt the drawing of El Dorado.

They hoped to better their condition, and escape from the restraint of narrowing conditions. They sought

to become free,—not because of improvidence or idle discontent, but with a noble desire for freedom. They longed for freer, fuller life, and for opportunities of self-expression and self-realization.

And the pioneers, of whom they were part, gave us our Andrew Jacksons and Thomas Bentons, our Harrisons and Sam Houstons, our Francis Asburys and Alexander Campbells, our George Washington and our Abraham Lincoln.

In the filling of the country there were, of course, bad pioneers as well as good pioneers. The pioneers were a cross-section of humanity. Their families include good individuals and bad individuals, successful individuals and unsuccessful individuals, obscure individuals and distinguished individuals. The pioneers as a class cannot be appraised by the qualities of any one of these. The great among them cannot be measured or characterized by the limitations of the lowly, nor the lowly by the achievements of the great. Lincoln must be measured neither by his ancestors nor his kinsmen, but by himself and the great men of all time. But taking the pioneers as a whole, their dominant characteristic was the will to march forward and the will to rise. There were pioneers who deserted their families, or who fled from their creditors, or were fugitives from justice. There were semi-pioneers who were pushed out from each community as it ceased to be primitive; and, partly by love of the wild, and partly by unwillingness or incapacity to change their habits of life, rather than settle down into town and farm living, sought the wilderness anew, where deer could be shot for meat, where a few cattle and hogs could be reared on wild food, where a corn plot could be planted in the glade, and where life would be still unfenced.

The Lincolns were none of these. Thomas Lincoln was an expert wheelwright and cabinet-maker. He made the spinning wheels and wagon wheels, brick-moulds, plow frames and axe handles for his neighbors. Born and reared in a slave state, he was opposed to slavery. He had the will to march forward and to rise. He found himself embroiled in arguments against the social order of the South, and he longed for a home in the land of freedom. Instead of accepting the life of a smug mechanic among people who disparaged mechanics, he determined to make a home where he would be as good as anybody. Adversity did not conquer him. He paid up every debt and left the South with a clean record.

In so doing he set an example like unto that of Benjamin Lundy, which was followed by many another.

That the site of his Indiana home proved malarial, led in time to a general exodus, and to his further movement to Illinois in 1830 and to the Coles County farm in 1831 (Hapgood, Life, p. 26), where he arrived at the age of fifty-three, and where he lived till his death in 1851. The view of his grave, which I have here, was taken in the summer of 1919 by Hon. Elmer F. Elston, County Clerk of Coles County.

Throughout his life, Lincoln exemplified the pioneer will to march forward and to rise. His achievements illustrating this are familiar to all: but reference may be made to some indications of the tendency which may not be so familiar.

In the winter of 1826-7, when he was approaching eighteen years of age, down at Gentryville, Indiana, Lincoln borrowed from David Turnham, the "Revised Laws of Indiana," published in 1824. The book was printed at the little town of Corydon, Indiana. I happen to have a copy of it here (indicating), a book of 438 pages. It was the Indiana pioneers' first book of

GRAVE OF THOMAS LINCOLN

AT FARMINGTON, COLES CO., ILL. FATHER OF OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENT. BORN JAN. 6, 1778. DIED JAN. 15, 1851.

Photo by Elmer F. Elston, Count Clerk, Coles Co., Aug. 1919

revised statutes. The pioneer statesmen were men of few books, but they knew those few well.

There Lincoln found and memorized the Constitution of the United States, and of Indiana, the Declaration of Independence, and the Ordinance of 1787, as well as the general body of the statutes of the State. In Lincoln's letters and speeches, there are sixteen citations of the Ordinance, fifty-four citations of the Declaration of Independence, two hundred and sixteen citations of the Constitution. In his first inaugural address he uses the word "Federal" three times, "National" five times, "United States" five times, and (including the reference to it by the pronoun "its") "Union" twenty times, so making thirty-three references to the Union.

The Indiana Constitution of 1816 authorized any one member of the Legislature to protest against any Act or resolution and have his reasons entered on the journal. The Illinois Constitution of 1818 preserved this right, but restricted it to any *two* members. It required two members; any two members might join in protesting and recording the reasons for their protest.

In his term as Illinois legislator he exercised this right of protest. On March 3, 1837, with the support of Representative Dan Stone, he filed their written protest against the slavery resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Illinois.

In that same year he, more than any other member, was instrumental in removing the State capitol to Springfield. (Arnold, Life, p. 51; 1 Nicolay and Hay, pp. 137-8.) The removal to the central part of the state was for the general good of the state. But here is a phase personal to Lincoln. With the capitol, there was brought to Springfield the already respectable and rapidly growing State Library; and Lincoln's office fronted the Capitol containing the State Library. He

frequented that library and absorbed its contents more industriously than any one else. In the late fifties, when he was bringing to bear his accumulated knowledge and ability, to maintain his policy of "no extension of slavery," his political opponents repeatedly charged him with "mousing around the State Library," for material for his speeches. The charge was true. (1 Nicolay and Hay, p. 378.) It was his university, "the collection of books," which Carlyle at Edinboro' in 1866 called the real university. Lincoln made that library his own.

Captain of volunteers and postmaster at the age of twenty-three, candidate for the legislature at the age of twenty-four, elected and serving four terms between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-nine; from 1837 to 1861 he lived in the State capital. We are apt to overlook the importance of this. It was a pioneer capital where business was transacted in the open. It could be seen and understood by any close observer; and Lincoln was a close observer. He was in daily contact with the various branches of the State government and with the large body of men who came from all parts of the State and country to this capital to apply for action by the courts or other branches of the government. It was, to Lincoln, a school of political science.

Talcott Williams, the distinguished Philadelphia editor, in a current magazine writes this: "In 1849 he returned from his service in Congress. He began new studies. Lincoln then took up German and learned to read it; he knew French and Spanish. Hallam and Gibbon are two histories he read at this period."

Editor Williams proceeds further: "Julius H. Royce, my father-in-law, a man of business at Albion, New York, spent the winter of 1859-60 at Bloomington, Illinois." He saw Lincoln—he stayed at the hotel—and one day at noon, when court happened to be in session,

he saw a man come into the hotel, sit down at the dinner table, reach out and pull up a hotel castor, set it before his plate, prop a book open on that castor, and read it while he ate his dinner. Breakfast, dinner and supper brought the same absorption. Royce was curious. He introduced himself. The man was Abraham Lincoln. Royce asked what he was reading, and he said, "I am reading Homer, the Iliad and the Odyssey. He has a grip, and he knows how to tell a story." * * * Better criticism has not been made by one no nearer than a translation." Williams proceeds: "I record it as the type of reading which gave him the Attic simplicity and Hellenic elevation of his closing and deathless utterances." (61 Am. Review of Reviews, p. 196.) We have not realized that Lincoln was a man of liberal education, who kept on going to school and mastering the world's masterpieces to the end of his life. (Applause.)

When his name began to be considered for the presidential nomination of 1860, he received from Mr. J. L. Scripps, whose name is no doubt familiar to all of you as the head of the Scripps News Bureau, the proof of a biographical sketch. Scripps had taken a certain liberty with the material, and enumerated the books that Lincoln had read. He got that pretty near right, but he included among them the statement that he had read the well-known "Plutarch's Lives." Lincoln returned the proof saying, "Not true when you wrote it, but that it may be true I secured the book a few days ago and * * * have just read it through." (Applause and laughter.) (Early Life of Lincoln, Tarbell and Davis, p. 71.)

February 27, 1860, Lincoln delivered his Cooper Institute speech in New York, demonstrating that a clear majority of the fathers who framed the constitu-

tion, by repeated votes in the Constitutional Convention and first Congresses, voted to exercise Federal power to restrict slavery, and prevent its extension in the territories,—the thing that Lincoln and his party pledged themselves to do in 1860, and for which they were charged with unconstitutional designs.

Charles C. Nott (afterwards judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia) and Cephas Brainard published an annotated edition of this address in 1860. Their notes cite upwards of 50 historical works and documents. In their preface they say:

"No one who has not actually attempted to verify its details can understand the patient research and historical labor which it embodies. The history of our earlier politics is scattered through numerous journals, statutes, pamphlets and letters; and these are defective in completeness and accuracy of statement, and in indexes and tables of contents. Neither can anyone who has not traveled over this precise ground appreciate the accuracy of every trivial detail, or the self-denying impartiality with which Mr. Lincoln has turned from the testimony of 'the fathers' on the general question of slavery to present the single question which he discusses. From the first line to the last, from his premises to his conclusion, he travels with a swift, unerring directness, which no logician ever excelled—an argument complete and full, without the affectation of learning, and without the stiffness which usually accompanies dates and details. A single easy, simple sentence of plain Anglo-Saxon words contains a chapter of history that, in some instances, has taken days of labor to verify, and must have cost the author months of investigation to acquire; and the public should justly estimate the labor bestowed on the facts which are stated; but they cannot estimate

the greater labor involved on those which are omitted—how many pages have been read—how many works examined—what numerous statutes, resolutions, speeches, letters and biographies have been looked through. Commencing with this address as a political pamphlet, the reader will leave it as an historical work — brief, complete, profound, impartial, truthful,—which will survive the time and the occasion that called it forth, and be esteemed hereafter no less for its intrinsic worth than for its unpretending modesty."

Lincoln's easy mastery of the subject had been acquired by continued "mousing in the State Library."

We have seen that Lincoln's ancestors were gentlemen.

His own ideal of that term he indicated in an important address delivered at Springfield July 17, 1858. He said:

"I set out in this campaign with the intention of conducting it strictly as a gentleman, in substance at least, if not in outside polish. The latter I shall never be; but that which constitutes the inside of a gentleman I hope I understand, and am not less inclined to practice, than another." (Lincoln and Douglas Debates, p. 57.)

Old Thomas Dekker, in a play written in 1604, shortly before Samuel Lincoln was born, makes a character define the spirit of a gentleman thus:

"Patience, my lord! 'Tis the soul of peace;
Of all virtues, 'tis nearest kin to heaven;
It makes men look like gods—the best of men
That e'er wove earth about him, was a sufferer,
A soft, meek, patient, humble, tranquil spirit,
The first true gentleman that ever breathed."

This was the spirit in which Lincoln lived. It was of this spirit that Lowell wrote:

How beautiful to see
Once more a shepherd of mankind indeed,
Who loved his charge, but never loved to lead;
One whose meek flock the people joyed to be,
Not lured by any *cheat of birth,*
But by his clear-grained human worth,
And brave old wisdom of sincerity.

Owing to the tragedy and orphanage of his father, his *birth* was of the humblest; but his *lineage* was of the finest.

The authors of the legend referred to at the outset had no adequate conception of the inspiring influence of a free continent, and free American institutions, on the aspirations and spiritual outlook of the pioneers. (Applause.)

The spirit which animated those pioneers was well expressed by BENTON in his memorable address on the Pacific Railway.

Pointing to the West he said:

"Yonder lies the East. There lies the road to India"; and, "Upon these plains I hear the footsteps of the coming millions."

Or, as Whittier says:

I hear the tread of pioneers,
Of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves where soon
Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here
Are plastic yet and warm;
The chaos of a mighty world
Is rounding into form.

Into their lives with all their difficulties, entered something of that unconquerable merriment, that perennial hilarity, that inexhaustible cheer, that overplus of vitality that we call high spirits, which the French ascribe to the advance-guard, by the term *garde-joyeuse.* They were in truth the joyous advance-guard of American civilization. They combined leadership, courage, romance, adventure, exhilaration, sport, pluck, gallantry, manhood, fortitude and clear grit, with the genuine spirit of play.

Lincoln's ancestors belonged to that advance-guard. We are apt to think of pioneers, their hardships, their freedom and their opportunity in terms of things physical. But in their state and empire building, in their founding and fashioning of church and school, legislature and court, highway, market and city,—in all these also they were pioneers.

The courts and lawyers of the frontier had few books. The lawyers' briefs and the courts' decisions consisted of statements of principles and reasons, rather than citations of authority.

They were not fenced in by precedents. The intellectual field about them was as open as the prairie. In developing principles by their own reasoning and in their own language, they developed many original rules, overturning many outgrown precedents, and opened the way for better social growth, and enlarged the scope of their jurisprudence.

And so in legislation we can enumerate many remedial statutes abrogating settled doctrines of feudal law, but enlarging our liberties and improving the conditions of life, which were enacted by our pioneers. The Acts abolishing primogeniture, forbidding forcible entries, establishing homestead rights, saving the investments of *bona fide* occupying claimants, authorizing and

distributing the burdens of roads, bridges, drainage, schools and state universities, by combinations of general and special taxes, may serve as examples. These we came by through our pioneers.

The development of democracy went on in this new state just as Lincoln was growing up.

In 1784, the year of grandfather Abraham's death, the first American settlement in Indiana was founded at the falls of the Ohio.

Illinois and Indiana were erected into two separate territories in 1809, the year that Lincoln was born. (Act of Feb. 3, 1809; 2 U. S. Statutes at Large, p. 514.)

In 1816, the year that Lincoln left Kentucky for Indiana, Indiana was admitted as a state and adopted a Constitution which pronounced strongly against slavery; (R. S. Ind. 1824, p. 35; Id. 1838, p. 36); and the question whether that Constitution would be adopted, which had that strong provision for the freedom of all men, was the vital question in the adoption of it; and in all the scattered villages from the Michigan line to the Ohio river the campaign was as fierce as any that any man in this house has seen; and when it ended, the result was proclaimed by bonfires on every hill-top, carrying the message, "She comes in free."

And that was the atmosphere into which seven-year-old Abraham Lincoln came, when he came into the State of Indiana. (Applause.)

In 1830, the year that the Lincolns came to Illinois, Chicago was surveyed and platted. (Daily News Almanac and Year Book, 1919, p. 934.)

Lincoln grew up in a growing young democracy. Land was free. Food and the means of living were abundant. There were no extremes of wealth or poverty. Economic as well as political equality prevailed.

He well knew that the equality of his young manhood was cramped and choked by primitive hardships. He knew that to the pioneer the primitive hardships were inevitable; but he did not regard the hardships as necessary to equality; nor did he have any merely sentimental fondness for them merely because they were part of his past. He began as a ferryman and navigator. As a surveyor he laid out roads thro' swamps and across prairies. As a public man he favored liberal internal improvements. He worked to put an end to the primitive hardships, but strove to maintain the equal chance and fair start in the race of life as part of the national ideal.

And these people of Bible names were Bible readers, and familiar with Bible phrases and doctrines.

"That this nation shall under God have a new birth of freedom," was a simple transference of Christ's words to Nicodemus into the field of national life. The need of and the dedication to national regeneration,—to a radical change in the spirit of the nation, accomplished by the influence of the divine spirit, restoring to it the spirit of the new life born with the Declaration of Independence, was the simple and universally understood lesson of the Gettysburg address.

And this breadth and freedom and consecration to new uses, of the symbols of doctrine, was a direct outgrowth of pioneer living and thinking.

These men with Bible names renew the story of the oldest movements of our race.

When Israel, of the Lord beloved,
Out of the land of bondage came,
Her father's God before her moved,
An awful guide in smoke and flame.

* * * *

Lincoln came of several generations of pioneers—of men who led the movement of the race into a virgin continent. They seemed to hear and answer the call of One who said:—

Lo! I uncover the land
Which I hid of old time in the West,
As the sculptor uncovers the statue
When he has wrought his best!

My angel,—his name is Freedom,—
Choose him to be your king;
He shall cut pathways east and west,
And fend you with his wing.

As we look back through the clouds of storm and battle, back of all the conflicts of the day, we see coming out of the perspective of history, the long procession of our pioneers.

* * * *

O you youths, Western youths,
So impatient, full of action, full of manly pride and friendship,
Plain I see you Western youths, see you tramping with the foremost,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

* * * *

Have the elder races halted?
Do they droop and end their lesson, wearied there beyond the seas?
We take up the task eternal, and the burden and the lesson,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

All the past we leave behind,
We debouch upon a newer, mightier world, varied world,
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world of labor and the march,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

We detachments steady throwing
Down the edges, through the passes, up the mountain steep,
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing, as we go the unknown ways,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

We primeval forests felling,
We the rivers stemming, vexing, we, and piercing deep the mines within,
We the surface broad surveying, we the virgin soil upheaving,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

On and on the compact ranks,
With accessions ever waiting, with the places of the dead quickly fill'd,
Thro' the battle, thro' defeat, moving yet and never stopping,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

All the pulses of the world,
Falling in they beat for us, with the Western movement beat,
Holding single or together, steady moving to the front, all for us,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

* * * *

O you youths, Western youths,
So impatient, full of action, full of manly pride and friendship,
Plain I see you, Western youths, see you tramping with the foremost,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

* * * *

(Applause.)

President Pitcher: I take great pleasure in informing the audience that this address will be published by the Association, and it will be as widely circulated as our limited means will permit. If any member of this audience will signify his desire, and leave his address with the Secretary of this Association, he or she will receive a copy of it very shortly.

I desire, on the part of the Board of Directors of this Association, to extend to Mr. Starr our most grateful thanks for the masterly address which he has given to us. In all the twenty-one years that we have listened to addresses on this subject, never have we been so entertained, and so impressed with the greatness of the man Abraham Lincoln, as we have been today. (Applause.)

We will now sing the National Anthem, "America."

("America.")

Mr. Pitcher: That concludes our program. Thank you very much, gentlemen and ladies.

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